(b) if so, under what Sections of FEMA and other statute's cases against the former Chief Managing Director (CMD) of Tata Finance Limited (TFL) have been registered for siphonning/diverting of funds to other countries; and

(c) what is the latest position of investigation and what steps are being taken to recover the amount from the former CMD of TFL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Enforcement Directorate has not received any reference in this regard relating to violation of either Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA). 1973 of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 from the Mumbai Police Department.

Amendment in Customs Tariff Act

*287. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to protect the domestic industry from cheap imports from China, the Ministry of Finance has empowered itself to impose product specific safeguards duty;

(b) if so, whether the duty chargeable will be in addition to any other duty imposed for similar imports from other countries;

(c) whether any amendment to this effect is being considered in the Customs Tariff Act;

(d) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(e) to what extent it will check the cheap imports from China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. However, the Finance Bill, 2002 proposed to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, so as to insert new section 8C which provides that if the Central Government, after conducting such enquiry as it deems fit, is satisfied that any article is imported into India, from the People's Republic of China, in such increased quantities and under such conditions so as to cause or threatening to cause market disruption to domestic industry, it may impose safeguard duty on that article.

(b) The proposed safeguard duty, when levied, will be in addition to any other duty imposed for similar imports from other countries.

(c) to (e) The Finance Bill, 2002, which is under consideration of the Parliament, proposes to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, as mentioned in reply to part (a) above. The proposed amendment is to safeguard the domestic industry from imports from China.

Assistance against godown and warehouse receipt by NABARD

4288. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider NABARD's proposal for funding by commercial banks to farmers against godown or warehouse receipts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether NABARD has formulated guidelines for banks to finance rural godowns;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what is Government's reaction to its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (f) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that a capital investment subsidy scheme for construction/renovation/expansion of rural godowns is under implementation through NABARD/National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC). Under the scheme, there is a provision for providing loans to farmers by banks against the pledge of godown receipts. Under this scheme, 25 percent of the capital cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 37.50 lakhs will be provided as credit-linked, back-ended subsidy to the godown constructed in the areas outside the municipal limits in the States. The capacity of such godown should not be less than 100 MT. The owner's contribution will be 25 percent.

NABARD has circulated a copy of the model scheme to participating banks containing the techno-economic parameters as also the checklist for construction of godown to facilitate formulation/scrutiny/appraisal of the projects. Government has also finalised the operational guidelines and accorded necessary approval for its implementation.